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Live at the Legion

Musician Rick Fines performs during an afternoon concert organized by the Haliburton County Folk Society on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Legion in Haliburton. Fines also performed later that day. The concerts were opened by musician Jodi Timgren. Like all public events, COVID-19 protocols were employed such as limiting admission to 50 attendees, mask wearing for people in attendance and a barrier between the performers and the audience. See www.haliburtonlegion.com/event-calendar for other events. /DARREN LUM Staff

Some in-school public health services on hold

JENN WATT

Editor

Some vaccinations and screening programs typically administered in schools have been relocated to health unit offices or put on hold for the 2020/2021 school year, members of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District board of health were told at their meeting Nov. 19.

"We decided to put on hold some of our programming in school systems obviously because of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health.

Vision screening for junior and senior kindergarten children will not be offered, with the health unit instead promoting OHIP-covered optometrist visits for kids.

Oral health screening will be delayed and the fluoride

see PROGRAMS page 4

Public to have their say on shoreline bylaw

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The County of Haliburton will embark on a public input process

for its draft shoreline protection bylaw, that process including a virtual public meeting amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In a nearly four-hour-long meeting on Nov. 23, county

councillors continued work on the draft bylaw, which aims to preserve the quality of lake health in the county, sifting through the document section by section. The bylaw would restrict

site alteration and the removal of vegetation within 30 metres of the high-water mark around waterbodies, and has stirred some controversy in the county

see AMBITIOUS page 3

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Getting the word out on blue-green algae

County councillors to discuss how best to notify residents when blooms are suspected

JENN WATT
Editor

Haliburton County council will be discussing what can be done to better inform residents when blue-green algae blooms are suspected on area lakes, and how to improve education for everyone, following several confirmed cases of the potentially toxic organisms.

Three main players are officially involved when blue-green algae is found on a lake: the provincial Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, and the municipality in which the bloom is detected. However, it seems that no single entity has been given a clear directive from the government to inform the general public about confirmed blooms.

There's been no "formal or official notification from the [provincial] government, or discussion" about the municipality's role in notifying the public, said Warden Liz Danielsen.

As blue-green algae can be toxic to humans and animals, Danielsen said municipal politicians have been concerned about how notification is handled and will be discussing the issue on Nov. 25.

"Hopefully we can all agree on the process that we'll use or action that we'll take. One of the things we've considered is doing a delegation during the ROMA conference to MOE ...," she said, referring to the Rural Ontario Municipal Association. "And do we see ourselves assuming responsibility [for notification] and I believe that we have a moral responsibility to let people know."

On Nov. 9, blue-green algae blooms were confirmed on Wenona Lake in Dysart et al, Bob Lake in Minden Hills and Gooderham Lake in Highlands East, according to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, with toxicity results pending. In addition, Little Glamor Lake in Highlands East received a positive test on Oct. 22, but it was deemed not toxic.

As of Nov. 14, all blooms had completely dissipated and the risk to the public was low, said Richard Ovcharovich, manager of health protection for the health unit.

The process for identification and notification starts with a call to the ministry's Spills Action Centre, where staff will assess and potentially test for the algae.

"The ministry will also notify the local health unit and affected municipalities in these situations," said Ovcharovich via email. "Should the algae sample indicate toxin-producing BGA [blue-green algae], the ministry would also notify the resident/property owner who initially reported the issue."

Blooms fall into three general categories that vary in severity, according to information from the health unit: In category 1, the water is cloudy, but translucent and no health effect is expected. In category 2, the water colour changes and the algae may be clustered or in flakes; it may look like "pea puree." In category 3, the bloom is dense and may have a scum on top of the water or look like a paint spill. It can easily be swept by the wind.

"When blue-green algae fall into categories 2 or 3, people are advised not to swim or use water for drinking, cooking, rinsing foods or washing dishes," Ovcharovich said. "Pets should also be prevented from entering or drinking the water."

He said that most blooms are short-lived and disappear within days or weeks.

"While many forms of BGA are harmless, some can produce toxins that can be harmful to humans and animals. This means that any exposure to the water, be it drinking, swimming, bathing, cooking or washing, can lead to health problems (e.g. skin rash, eye irritation). The extent of how sick people can get depends on the type of BGA, size and category of the bloom, how close the bloom is from the water intake, concentration of the toxin in the water and how long they are exposed to the toxins.

"The simple advice is this: if you see or detect a large bloom of BGA within 50 metres of your water intake in a lake or local waterway, avoid using the water in all situations. Boiling water will not help either, as this process kills the algae resulting in the release of more toxins into the water."

Paul MacInnes, chairman of the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations, or CHA, has been concerned that word does not go out quickly enough to those who may use lake water when a bloom is suspected. There are barriers to receiving information for property owners who may not be part of a lake association, for example, and when notification is delayed while



An example of a blue-green algae bloom. If you suspect there is blue-green algae in your lake, contact your lake association and the municipality and do not drink or use the water. Pets should likewise not drink or swim in the water. /Photo submitted

waiting for test results to be returned, people could inadvertently be exposed to the algae.

"If somebody's at the lake and there's a bloom, we need to let them know right away so that they stop bringing the water into their house and don't let their pets out unsupervised because if a dog drinks blue-green algae, there's nothing that can be done for that dog. That dog is going to die," MacInnes said. When people drink the water, even those who are good health are likely to get sick, he said.

Blue-green algae is also known as cyanobacteria and occurs naturally in waterbodies around the world, however, there is evidence that its growth can be connected to increased phosphorus levels.

"They've now determined that there's a whole lot of factors, but the single most important one is the ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus in the lake," MacInnes said. "And if that ratio gets too low, in other words, your phosphorus level gets too high, you'll probably have a bloom."

To limit the amount of phosphorus going into local lakes, over the last decade the CHA has been advocating for inspections of septic systems and renaturalization of shorelines. The organization's website includes plentiful information on both the risks to lakes and remedies for common environmental issues.

Danielsen said part of the discussion among county councillors will be about how to disseminate the information needed, not only for those on lakes where blooms have been detected, but also to those who may be in a position to spot blue-green algae on their lake.

"Education is completely key," she said. "And how we get that information out as well."

Find more information on blue-green algae on the HKPR District Health Unit website: www.hkpr.on.ca/2019/02/08/blue-green-algae and from the CHA: www.cohpoa.org/lake-health-3/algae-and-algal-blooms.

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New Cases Reported Today

1	1	6
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland

Total Confirmed Cases to Date

25	192	69	286
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County

County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	2	23	2	0	1	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	1	172	13	0	11	19	13
Northumberland	10	58	23	0	4	1	0

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU

All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
HKPRDHU	13	253	38	0	16	20	13

One new confirmed case of COVID-19 in Haliburton County was reported Nov. 23, bringing the total local case count to 25, with 23 of those cases being resolved. Currently, two high-risk contacts in Haliburton County are listed on the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit website. In Kawartha Lakes, one case of COVID-19 is not resolved, while in Northumberland, 10 cases of COVID-19 are not resolved. / Screenshot from HKPR District Health Unit website

Ambitious timeline set for bylaw passage

from page 1

among waterfront property owners, as well as members of the community's construction and landscaping industries.

During Monday's meeting, councillors also provided comments to staff on accompanying documents, a sort of Coles Notes version of the bylaw providing a list of what kinds of work residents would and would not require a permit for, and a shoreline self-assessment tool.

The next step in the process will be a public consultation. As the ongoing pandemic will not allow for a traditional public meeting, staff will organize a virtual public meeting, prospectively scheduled for late January, as well as solicit public feedback through an online survey tool such as Bang The Table, and the county's

website. County planner Charley White said that staff members would also be available to speak with residents who do not use online communication.

A timeline laid out by White in her staff report had public consultation taking place throughout December and January, delegation of authority from the lower-tier townships to the county taking place in February, final approval of the bylaw by council in March, hiring of staff in April, and enforcement beginning in mid-April.

"I have some concerns around the timeline," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, adding she wasn't sure it provided enough time for council to consider what could be a large amount of public feedback.

White said it had been her understand-

ing from previous meetings that council wanted the bylaw enforceable by summer of 2021, agreed the timeline was ambitious, and said it could be changed if council so wished.

"I just want to make sure that we give ourselves ample time to be able to receive, review and ... ask for more or different information, from any of those input opportunities," Moffatt said, suggesting that council may require a separate meeting following the public meeting to discuss changes based on the feedback.

"I want to make sure that we don't end up saying, 'Yeah, we're on a timeline here, so we're just gonna get going.' How

much time are we allowing ourselves to review any of that input? Because that's the whole point."

"If we get enough concerns or valid cautions brought to us during the process, then it would come back to us, and we would have to review it and consider it and make decisions as we go forward," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen. "Whatever time it takes. There are going to be things we hear and agree with, there will be things that we hear and disagree with, or can't do anything about for legislative reasons, so we'll have to wade through it all."

Service delivery report to be discussed Wednesday

County council will be receiving the final service delivery review report at its meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 1 p.m.

Members of the public are welcome to watch the meeting, which will be live streamed online with a link available through Haliburton Civicweb: <https://haliburton.civicweb.net>.

Work on the report began in early 2020 and involved meeting with council members and senior staff for their perspectives on opportunities for greater efficiency and effectiveness in municipal services.

Stakeholder consultation on some topics was also conducted including area developers, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Haliburton County Homebuilders Association, Haliburton BIA, and Algonquin Gateway Business Association.

Following receipt of the report, councils within Haliburton County will review and prioritize recommendations.

Staff

MP to hold referendum on update to MAID legislation

JENN WATT

Editor

Local MP Jamie Schmale is asking constituents to weigh in on Bill C-7, which changes medical assistance in dying, or MAID, legislation. The proposed revisions are in response to a court ruling that part of the legislation which required that the patient's natural death would be "reasonably foreseeable" was unconstitutional. The government was given a deadline of Dec. 18 to change the law.

All households in the riding are to receive information in the mail in the coming weeks outlining the proposed changes and both sides of the argument,

Schmale said in a press release. The ballots can be mailed back to the MP's office or scanned and emailed. Additional ballots for those who did not receive one, are available upon request.

Schmale said the timeline before the third reading of the bill may be short and that only ballots received before the vote will be counted. He said he would vote according to the majority of ballots received.

"I encourage my constituents to return their ballot as soon as possible after they receive it," he said. "I can only base my decision on the ballots I have received before the final vote in the House of Commons, and that could come at any time."

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Health unit staff give insight into contact tracing

JENN WATT

Editor

While the task of COVID-19 case and contact management may be complicated and time consuming for staff at the local health unit, it's also an emotional job, the board of health heard at their meeting on Nov. 19.

Registered dietitian Kimberly Leadbeater outlined the process of case management for the group, starting with the positive coronavirus test, through contact tracing, and monitoring the self-isolation process.

"When we're reaching out to clients to tell them that they have tested positive for COVID-19 or they are high-risk contacts, they're not happy to get that phone call, as you can imagine," Leadbeater said.

She gave examples of some of the scenarios public health workers could encounter, including those worried about the virus and about coping while self-isolated; those feeling guilty for having potentially infected others with COVID-19; and those who are angry about the restrictions being placed on them, especially if they have not yet tested positive for the virus, but are someone else's high-risk contact.

Asked by a board member how the team is faring, Leadbeater said that the

work can be intense. She said she has dreamt about work and has personally had a more difficult time getting it out of her mind when she's not at the office. Resources to deal with stress have been made available for staff.

Leadbeater said that COVID-19 case management has broken down the silos that once existed at the health unit, as staff from different departments have come together.

"It was a very steep learning curve for ... a lot of people because some of the work was traditionally thought of to be just solely the work of the public health nurse and now you have dietitians, dental hygienists and health promoters and in some cases public health inspectors doing this type of work. So, a bit of a learning curve," she said.

When someone is identified as testing positive for COVID-19, health unit staff will make contact and determine what symptoms, complications, risk factors and what supports may be required. Questions are asked to determine who they have come in contact with while infected, they are told what is expected of them by law, and what the health unit can do to assist them while isolated.

In the third quarter, the health unit staff dealt with 48 cases with 178 high-risk contacts and 49 low-risk contacts.

Programs offered at clinics, from primary health-care providers

from page 1

varnish program cancelled this year. Those programs may be offered out of the Port Hope and Lindsay offices in the new year.

Hepatitis B, HPV, and meningococcal vaccinations for Grade 7 and 8 students will not be provided in the schools, instead "the health unit is offering immunization clinics, as well, these vaccines

have been made available to health-care providers across our region through our regular vaccine order process," Noseworthy's report states.

This year, the health unit won't be enforcing school suspensions for students who are not up to date on their vaccinations, though they will be sending out notices for those students missing mandatory immunizations as outlined in the Immunization for School Pupils Act.



Making the season bright

Members of the Haliburton Fire Department string the lights around this year's Christmas tree outside the Village Barn in Haliburton on Nov. 22. The tree was donated by Kim Emmerson and transported to its central location in town where it will provide holiday cheer for the season. /JENN WATT Staff

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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

New directions

I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER the day I drove up to Haliburton to interview for a reporter's position with the *Minden Times*. It was a warm, sunny day, not overly hot, but I had the air conditioning in my rental car on full blast to combat my pre-interview sweats. I was finishing up a contract in the city and desperately wanted to work in the country – in a place where you could see stars at night. I needn't have worried; the moment I walked into the front lobby of the *Haliburton Echo* building I was greeted by the friendliest welcome from Martha Perkins, then the editor of the *Echo* and *Times*.

After completing the interview and meeting the other staff, I walked out the front door and stood on the verandah overlooking Head Lake and thought to myself, "this is exactly where I want to be." Luckily for me, I got the job and spent two years working as a reporter for the *Times* and *Echo*.

Then in 2009, Martha and her significant other made a huge decision to leave the Highlands for new adventures in British Columbia. I was asked if I would step into the role of managing editor, a daunting challenge given the reputation for excellence at the papers. It was a nerve-racking first year – or three – as I learned the ebb and flow of the job, but thanks to the support of the staff and the

patience of the readers, I made it through.

The time since then has gone by incredibly quickly. I can recall only a tiny fraction of the news events from the last 11 years, but overwhelmingly I remember community spirit. At the root of so much in the Haliburton Highlands is an undercurrent of teamwork and compassion. It has been a pleasure to report on the many, many instances of true kindness exhibited by people living here.

It is that spirit that I will remember the most as I start on a new phase of my career. Earlier this fall, I decided the time was right to try something new and go back to school. While it was a difficult decision to make, I'm excited for the possibilities ahead of me, though it means I have to say goodbye to the many incredible people I've met and worked with over the years.

Starting next week, two experienced journalists will be taking the editorial reins at the *Echo* and *Times*. Chad Ingram will take over as editor in Minden and Mike Baker will become the editor in Haliburton. I wish them all the best as they take these papers to new and exciting places.

This editorial space has never been long enough, especially this week. Thank you to the readers, the community, and the wonderful newspaper team I work with. It has been an honour to hold this position and one that I will never forget.



jenn
watt

Editorial



More to come

by Darren Lum

Just when you thought

JIM HAD been looking forward to this all day. As he drove into town, he thought how quickly life can fly by and it was the little things, small events and daily happenings, that really gave it meaning. For example, today was his granddaughter's birthday and Jim was taking her out for dinner.

She just turned 19 and to mark the day they were going for a "fancy" meal in a "fancy" restaurant and Melanie would be ordering her first legal glass of wine. Jim doubted it would truly be Mel's first glass of wine. Such was the reality of young people, he thought as he manoeuvred his truck over the icy road. A wet snowfall the night before followed by a quick freeze had made for tricky walking and even trickier driving on Jim's back road.

But when he reached the highway, it was well sanded so he picked up speed. Didn't want to be late meeting Mel at the restaurant. As he came into town, his headlights caught a pair of eyes. The town deer were out and about as usual and he reminded himself to be watchful. The animals wandered all over with no apparent fear of people or vehicles.

The place was packed. At first he didn't see her but then there she was near the back, squeezed between a large group of women and a couple with a young child. Jim hoped it wouldn't be too noisy. He didn't get to see his granddaughter as much as when she was younger and it would be nice to have some good conversation tonight. However despite the crush of people, Jim and Melanie were able to share recent news with each other. She had a new boyfriend. Jim was thinking about buying another snowmobile.

He took in her young face, so full of optimism and plans. He could see his son's features reflected in her eyes and the way she carried her head. Being a grandparent had turned out to be a real highlight in his life. When Mel was a child Jim and his late wife had had her overnight once a week to give the new

parents a break. Those days of messy meals and crying jags were all pretty precious and went by far too soon. Jim knew she'd probably be moving to the city for new adventures in the near future and he wanted to squeeze in as much time with her as possible before that happened.

The dinner was a success despite the horde of people in the restaurant. The two of them paused on the sidewalk as they took their leave of each other. A big hug and profuse thank yous was like icing on the cake of the evening. Mel was driving in one direction and Jim in another.

It had begun to snow as he set out and he hoped Melanie would be careful driving home. He had a longer drive but he knew it so well he thought he could probably do it blindfolded. And just as he thought this a deer jumped in front of his truck. He had no time to react, it happened so fast. He hit it full on and it went up over the hood and smashed into the windshield. Instinctively he ducked his head and the truck went off the highway, over the embankment, crashing and thundering down before

coming to an angled stop.

A ringing sound startled him as he struggled to make sense of what was happening. Then he realized he was in his bed and it was the alarm on his bedside table making the noise. It had all been a dream – the dinner and the accident.

The only real part was that today was indeed Melanie's birthday, Jim thought as he headed downstairs to make that essential first cup of coffee. Flipping on the radio as he passed it, he was just in time to catch the seven o'clock news. The second wave of the pandemic was taking more lives in the province and the premier had just declared a total lockdown once again. There would be no special dinners for the foreseeable future. But the deer would always be there.

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points of view

The rule of thirds

MANY PEOPLE believe that the “rule of thirds” is a term used only by artists and photographers when they are composing an image. This is only because they do not live with two dogs. If they did, they would know that the rule of thirds also describes how your snacks will be distributed.

The banana I ate this morning illustrates what I’m talking about.

Call me a naïve fool, but since both dogs were upstairs and sound asleep, I thought it might be possible to get away with peeling and eating the entire banana in question without them ever knowing.

Unfortunately, I had forgotten one key thing. That being, one of the lesser-known superpowers of a dog is its uncanny ability to hear and smell a banana being peeled or other food being prepared from as far as 400 or so kilometres away. In fact, I am beginning to believe the sole reason my dogs rush to the door or window and

bark is that somewhere between here and Montreal, a person is preparing a sandwich.

In any case, this morning I started peeling the banana, blinked, and when I opened my eyes both dogs were sitting pretty at my feet with a look that asked, “Are you going to have some too?”

The answer was yes.

What followed was the process I refer to as “the splitting of the snack.” In my house it basically goes, “One for you. One



steve
galea

Loon Tales

for you. One for me.”

Minutes later, when all was said and done, both dogs and I had each consumed approximately one third of a banana. My third was bruised.

I’m using that banana as an example, but rest assured the same thing happens with apples, carrots, cheese, cookies and any other food you’d rather not share. Conversely, it does not happen with kale or tofu, no matter how hard I try.

To be clear, this is not exactly a reciprocal arrangement either. Just try to steal your dog’s snack and see where that gets you.

Right about now, non-dog owners might be asking, why share your snack at all? Isn’t the couch enough?

I have asked myself the very same question countless times. And what I have come to realize is that snacks and belly rubs are the primary, and perhaps only, reasons that a dog is interested in being your best friend. Stop providing these benefits and they’ll start to regard you as a casual acquaintance at best.

That’s because, after the sharing of snacks and belly rubs, the next thing a dog looks for in a best friend is a willingness to practice mutual butt sniffing. And few humans are willing to go that far.

If there is a silver lining to all this however, it is that your calorie intake from snacks will be cut down considerably for each dog you own. In fact, if I were running Weight Watchers or Jenny Craig, I would not send my customers calorie-reduced food packages. Instead, I would just send them the number of dogs deemed appropriate to their weight loss goals. The results would take a little time but they would be nothing short of miraculous. Plus, you would get at least one new best friend.

Provided, of course, you don’t eat a lot of kale or tofu.



pic of the past

This week’s pic of the past was submitted by Betty Austin. The picture is of Betty’s mother Stella Walker, right, at her first job. She helped May Guartshore, left, cook at Gartshore’s Logging Mill on Barry Line. The man in the centre was May’s husband. This photo was likely taken in the late 1930s.

letters to the editor

Handling compost better

To the Editor,

I was happy to read the article in the Nov. 10 issue of the *Haliburton Echo*, describing the efforts of Dysart et al councillors to reduce the amount of organic waste being sent to landfill elsewhere in Ontario. Organic material when combined with other types of waste in an anaerobic environment produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas which contributes to climate change. But when it is composted properly, it is worth its weight in gold in its capacity to create nutrient rich soil.

In these pandemic days of 2020, we became aware of how food insecure we are in this county with its mostly sandy, rocky soil. It is predicted by experts that the world will run out of soil for

growing crops in as few as 60 years, if we continue with current industrial agricultural practices. We need to change the way we think about organic waste.

Although many have obtained backyard composters at cost from Dysart et al, organic waste from such sources as restaurants, hospitals or grocery stores is wasted. A municipal scale composting facility such as the one operating in Gravenhurst, Ontario, which produces top grade compost could help to expand the capacity of our county to grow its own food.

Susan Hay,
President, Environment Haliburton!

Letters to front-line workers

From Grade 7/8 students at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School, courtesy of Shannon Blanchard.

Thank you front line workers for doing your job in scary times. You were at work during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you weren’t working at the grocery store, we would die. You did your job even though life was crazy. You are awesome.

Thank you,
Michael Brodhagen
Grade 7 JDH student

Dear Truck Driver,

I am writing to thank you for your efforts in trucking things around the country. Without you we would not have any food or anything else we needed. Thank you for continuing to drive through the COVID-19 pandemic. We all like that we have people like you because I know I would not want the job and I am thankful that you do it.

Sincerely,
Josh Scheffee
Grade 7 JDH student

Dear Front Line Worker,

How are you doing today and thank you for all you have done for everyone. Thank you for working in scary times like these times and giving us food and helping with COVID-19, and helping those who have COVID-19.

Do you ever get scared to go to work? Or don’t want to go to work?

Sincerely,
Sarah

Dear Front Line Worker,

I would like to thank you for what you’ve done through the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for risking your life going into your place of work when everything was going a little crazy. You showed us hope and a possibility that everything would be OK! You went to work even though you had a family at home and we really didn’t know what was going on. We were told all kinds of crazy things and didn’t know what to believe, but you still went to work.

So, THANK YOU again for going to work.

Sincerely,
Colton Foley

Hello Doctor,

Thank you for keeping the hospitals open in these trying times. You have been working non-stop since March and you deserve a thank you. You should be proud of yourself, keeping society going when it is most important. You and your co-workers have done exactly that.

Sincerely,
Benjamin McMahon
Grade 7 student at JDH

Firearm–injury study authors call for suicide interventions tailored to rural men

Health promoters emphasize there is help and hope for those in crisis in the Haliburton Highlands and wider region

JENN WATT

Editor

Authors of a study on firearm-related injuries in Ontario are calling for suicide intervention strategies for men over 45 living in rural areas, after finding the rate of injuries for that population is much higher than in other parts of the province.

The paper, published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* in October, looked at statistics for Ontario residents who were injured or who died from firearms between 2002 and 2016 and found that 67.6 per cent of the approximately 2,700 deaths by firearm were attributed to “self-harm,” which in this field is the term used for suicide or intended suicide.

When researchers looked at the rates of injuries, they found “Assault was the most common intent among those aged 15-34, whereas self-harm was the most common intent among those aged 45 or more.”

“Overall rates of firearm-related injuries and deaths were consistently higher in rural areas than in large urban areas,” the study reads. “The major driver of this difference was the higher rate of self-harm in rural versus large urban areas.”

The highest firearm injury rates attributed to self-harm were in 10 Census divisions with populations of less than 100,000.

One of the study’s authors, trauma surgeon Dr. David Gomez of St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto, said the findings indicate more needs to be done on suicide

prevention, specifically for men over 45 living in rural areas of Ontario.

“When you look at the distribution, you can see that 68 per cent of the self-harm injuries and deaths occurred in the 45-plus group, 96 per cent of them happened in men,” he said. “... The rate per every 100,000 people in rural areas is three compared to only 0.8 in urban areas, so the risk of suicide is significantly higher in rural areas compared to urban ones.”

Jack Veitch of the Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge, said the report’s findings are similar to Canadian statistics and said there are a number of resources available regionally to help those who are having thoughts of suicide, as well as those who want to help.

“We’ve got intervention where we’re actively intervening and supporting a person,” said Veitch, who is the manager of community engagement and education. “So, the intervention support of ‘I’m actively experiencing thoughts of suicide, what do I do?’ There’s a 24-hour crisis line, call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to talk to a trained mental health professional for that support. And that’s toll-free, available to all residents of Haliburton County [1-866-995-9933].”

Crisis is self-defined, he said, so anyone feeling that calling the line would be of help is encouraged to do so. “It could be as simple as a family member [saying] ‘I’m just looking for advice or guidance’ [they] can call the crisis line and talk to that professional.”

The mental health association also works to improve mental health literacy

in the community, he said, “providing courses and education surrounding how somebody can support a person experiencing thoughts of suicide.”

These Safe Talk courses were offered in the county once a year and provided a certification for those who took it. Due to the pandemic, in-person classes aren’t happening, but Veitch said those interested in acquiring those skills can take the Living Works Start program online for a small fee.

In addition, CMHA HKPR has a program called Assertive Outreach for Suicide Prevention, which is partnered with area hospitals such as Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay and Peterborough Regional Health Centre with service for the most high risk, vulnerable population.

The caseworker works with the person “with the sole goal of supporting mental health and keeping that person alive and well,” he said.

The programs available through CMHA HKPR have been “very successful,” Veitch said.

“Statistically speaking, it’s a very successful program. ... The evidence is there that this has been a successful program at keeping people healthy, safe and alive,” he said.

Dearbhla Lynch, a health promoter with Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, said it’s important to emphasize that suicide can be prevented.

“When people are thinking about suicide, they’re often in crisis and when we’re in crisis, we’re overwhelmed and often our usual problem-solving methods aren’t working. Maybe our regular coping strategies are unavailable – and this is something that’s happening during COVID. Maybe it’s more difficult than usual to connect with your supports, and when that happens, it upsets the balance between thoughts and feelings and behaviour. And in stressful situations, people often overestimate how bad things might get and underestimate how well they can cope,” Lynch said. “The crisis phase is temporary. So, somebody is in crisis, then providing that ask [about whether they’re thinking of suicide] and listen and linking to supports is really important.”

According to the Government of Canada webpage on suicide prevention, warning signs of suicide include thinking of or talking about suicide, and having a plan for suicide. Signs and behaviours that might suggest a person is at risk for suicide include withdrawing from family, friends and activities; feeling like they have no purpose or reason for living; increased substance use; feeling trapped or there’s no way out of a situation; feeling hopeless about the future; talking about being a burden or being in unbearable pain; and anxiety or significant mood changes such as anger, sadness or helplessness.

“Suicide is preventable,” Lynch said. “There is help and there is hope.”

For Gomez, the findings of the study are only a first step toward future research that will provide better information on firearm-related injuries and potential solutions. The study pointed out that there are higher rates of gun ownership in rural areas, which needs to be taken into account.

“Our findings highlight the need for suicide-prevention strategies in rural Ontario targeted at men aged 45 and older,” the study reads. “Restricting access to lethal methods by such means as safe-storage campaigns and reduction in firearm ownership must go hand in hand with depression screening and treatment.”

When speaking with the *Echo* about the

study, Gomez said no one intervention will provide the solution.

“We as a society need to accept that firearm suicide is a big problem and it will require societal change. And I by no means think that completely eliminating firearms is the only way to fix this. I think there are a lot of [things] that the average law abiding responsible gun owner can do to try to reduce risk,” he said.

Separating the firearm from the ammunition is one way to reduce risk. “Safe storage practices which include keeping your firearms locked, separate from your ammunition, are proven risk-reduction strategies,” Gomez said, as that provides time for introspection. “... We have to remember, it’s not the firearm on its own. It’s what’s happening to the person, and most likely what’s happening to men over the age of 45 living in rural areas. Do they have access to the mental health resources that they need and are the mental health resources available actually tailored for rural men? That is the crux of the problem. If somebody’s having a mental health crisis, do they have the resources to reach out? Do they trust those resources? And are there enough resources available in rural areas? And I think one of the key things that we highlight with this paper is that this is a very complex issue that requires many interventions at the mental health level, at the firearms level, and the societal level.”

In the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge region, the 24-hour crisis line receives base funding from the government, providing it with long-term stability. However, the Assertive Outreach for Suicide Prevention program relies entirely on donations.

The program includes a caseworker to work one-on-one with a person at risk of suicide, as well as a family support worker who helps family and caregivers of the individual. Annual costs are about \$145,000. Veitch said given the success of the program, he hopes that one day funding is provided through the government, but until that time it needs to come through donations.

Anyone wishing to donate can contact Veitch at jveitch@cmhahkpr.ca or at 705-748-6687 ext. 1015.

If you are in crisis, and/or having thoughts of suicide, or want to speak to a mental health professional, call Four County Crisis at 1-866-995-9933.

Information on suicide prevention can be found at <https://cmhahkpr.ca/documents/preventing-suicide/>

How to help someone in crisis

Talking honestly, responsibly and safely about suicide can help you determine if someone needs help. If you want to help someone in crisis, try:

- listening and showing concern
- showing concern can be an immediate way to help someone
- listening won’t increase the risk of suicide and it may save a life
- talking with them and reassuring them that they’re not alone
- letting them know you care
- connecting them with a:
- crisis line (Four County Crisis at 1-866-995-9933)
- counsellor
- trusted person (neighbour, friend, family member or Elder)

(From <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/suicide-prevention/warning-signs.html>)

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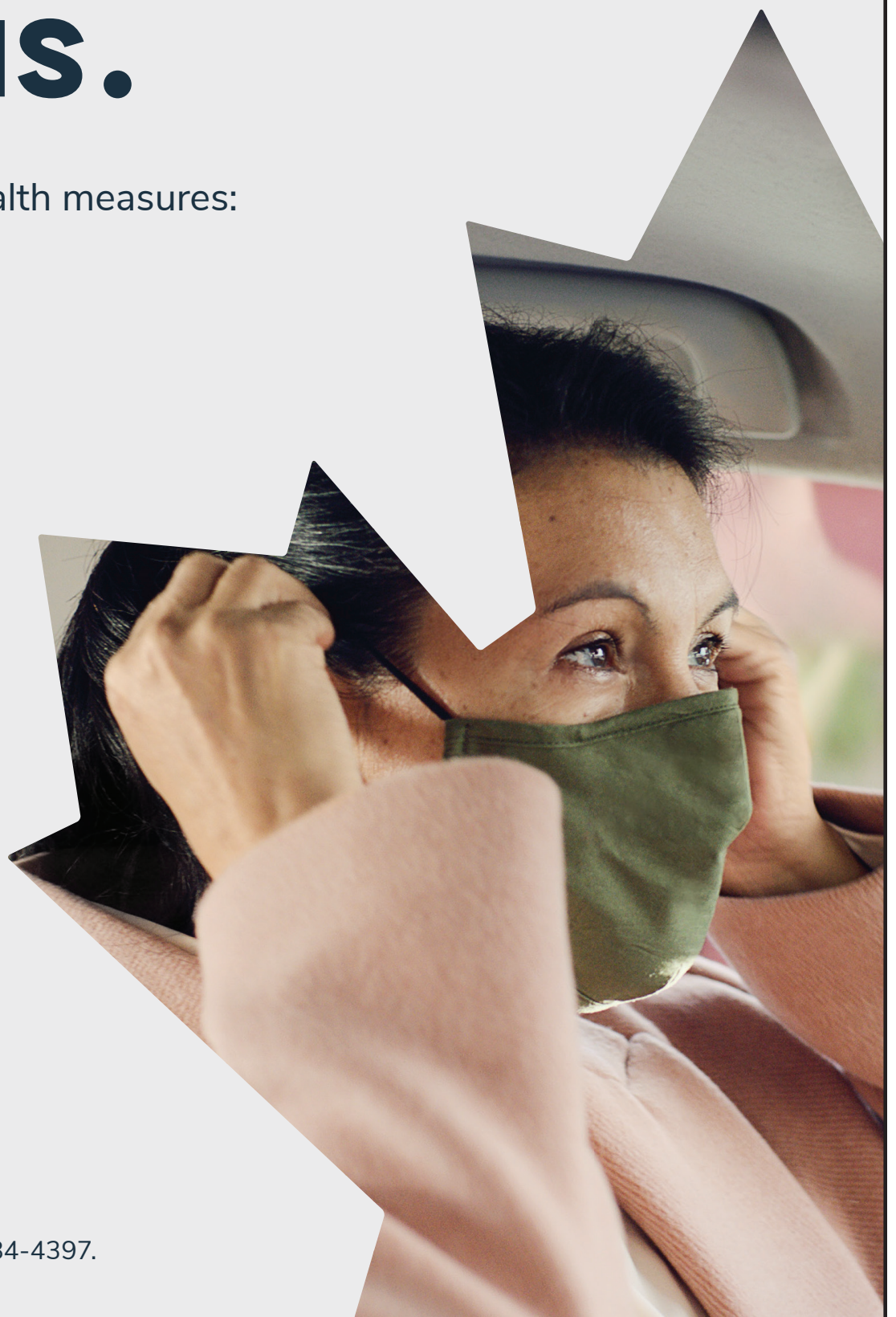


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Services and connectivity vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. 4G LTE service available in select markets. Requires active connected vehicle services and a data plan to access the vehicle's built-in Wi-Fi hotspot. Accessory Power must be active to use the Wi-Fi hotspot. Data plans provided by AT&T or its local service provider. Credit card is required for purchase.

Big thanks to Jenn, don'tcha know

THERE I WAS sitting at my computer, (Ethel I call her, you know, Lucy's best friend), when an email came in letting 'ol Maybelle know that Jenn Watt, our dear managing editor of the *Haliburton Echo*, *Minden Times* and *Bancroft This Week* will be leaving the papers at the end of the month.

WHAT? Noooooo, not Jennnnnn. I'm a selfish old bat sometimes, and after watching her grow from a good, solid *Echo* reporter (for two years) into a managing editor of outstanding merit and respect (over 11 years), responsible for numerous industry awards for the papers, well, I just wanted to cry, but, I didn't. I called her.

"You're leeeeeeaving us? How could you!!" (Those last three words I delivered in my lowest of low register in a totally shameful tone. Cottage humour, don'tcha know.) Then in a wee sad voice I squeaked: "I mean...why, Jenn?"

As she explained, it's time to try something new. To bring everything she has learned to another area of storytelling which she loves. (After all, news, albeit made up of facts, also tells stories, don'tcha know.) "And what might that area be?" I asked. "The library," she said. "I'll be going back to school in January."

She'll be learning all about how libraries work and what's involved in becoming a library technician. I'm still not sure exactly what that means, but I do know it's not about growing sprouts in Missis-

sauga.

Why Jenn loved libraries from the time she was knee-high to a grasshopper. A very LARGE grasshopper, don'tcha know. Or did she say, a moose? I do get them mixed up sometimes.

"I was drawn to libraries as a kid," she said. "I asked our local librarian in Warton, where we lived, if I could shelve books." That's when Jenn's romance with libraries began. In the past, she's also been on the library board in Haliburton.

With a nose for news about and for the community, the eye and skills for keeping all the plates in the air without breaking, hence, keeping us all informed in a timely and entertaining manner, and the talent and heart for writing commentary on the elephant in the room and all that affects Haliburton County and the world-at-large, I just want to say a public, "Thank you, Jenn! I know that all your readers, writers, and staff wish you the very best."

Please join me, won't you, in raising a cuppa tea or cocoa or shot of whiskey (you know who you are) to Jenn Watt for a great run as the managing editor of the *Haliburton Echo*, *Minden Times* and *Bancroft This Week*.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. Jerelyn's books, "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon," and "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You" are available at amazon.com.

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Wadi Rum, Jordan - Looking at the 7 Pillars of Wisdom. /Photo by Luke MacBride



Delhi, India - A large Indian family exploring the Red Fort. /Photo by Luke MacBride

Exploring the world through the photographer's lens

JENN WATT

Editor

Each image that Luke MacBride captures is like a fragment of his memory of a place – dark clouds descending over a beach in Kasoa, Ghana; a bright vista beaming through a window in Wadi Rum, Jordan; a child's wonder at a glowing sunrise over a lake in Minden – which over the years has developed into an extensive collection.

A school administrator with a passion for photography and travel, MacBride has lived abroad for much of his adult life, in New York City, Shanghai, Valencia, and now in Accra, Ghana, and visited at least 70 countries. All while documenting the places and people he encounters.

And each summer he returns to Canada and to the cottage on Kennisis Lake he's been visiting his whole life.

"My wife's family has a cottage on Horseshoe Lake Road and my grandparents got a cottage in 1940 on Lake Kennisis and I've been going since I was born. When I was a child I spent my whole summers up there and I've missed one summer I think since I've been overseas," MacBride said during a Zoom call from Accra.

The travel bug first bit when he was a university student, looking to explore. He took a year off school and spent half of that time backpacking across Europe from Paris through to Croatia, Greece and back.

"I lasted as long as my money lasted and I did odd jobs to try to stay longer," he said. "... That was the first time I really realized it's a big world out there and it inspired me to want to go more places. And after that I came home, finished up university and went straight to Manhattan."

In the last 17 years, MacBride has lived on four continents, spending anywhere from seven to four years in a given location and allocating free time to further travel.

"Sometimes I go for a two-week vacation. Sometimes I spend the summer taking two and a half months going across southeast Asia or across Europe or to Australia ...

it just kind of happens however I'm feeling," he said.

For the most part, his wife Alyson and daughter Pearl have been with him, but right now he's living solo in Ghana where he works as an assistant principal, while his family is back in Toronto. As with most everything during the coronavirus pandemic, MacBride's life has been impacted by travel restrictions and pandemic precautions.

After leaving on the last flight to Toronto from Ghana in March, he spent the bulk of 2020 in Minden and Haliburton, before recently returning to Africa.

"To get back to Ghana I had to quarantine in a hotel for two weeks. And I couldn't leave my hotel room. It was me and four walls for 14 days. ...It was awful," he said.

During the time when he has been able to freely travel, he's been documenting much of what he sees, though he said he's selective: taking about 100 pictures a day in a new place.

"When you do it for so long, sometimes when I don't even have my camera, I see things and I think that would be perfect right there. It's literally like that in my head now after all these years," he said, adding that smartphones are now good enough that he no longer has to forfeit photo opportunities when he doesn't have his gear with him.

And then there are times when he's been in the right place at the right time and the perfect photo has presented itself.

One such photo came about when he was photographing a mother, daughter and some children playing in the water on a beach in Goa, India. The sun was setting and a dog came along, sitting itself perfectly in the foreground.

"I was about to take a picture of that and then I heard this noise and I just moved my eye and a guy was on a motorcycle flying down the beach and I didn't have time to change it [the camera] to [burst mode], I just got two and he went right by ... I just thought that is so, so lucky I got that," he said.

His excursions will revolve around potential photos, but they're also about taking his experiences and finding a way to communicate them to the viewer. MacBride



Luke MacBride, a lifelong cottager in the Haliburton Highlands, has travelled to 70 countries around the world, capturing his experiences through photography. /Photo submitted

said he doesn't think he has a particular style and isn't trying to create a specific aesthetic, but there are commonalities in what he creates.

"I like to think that it shows that people are pretty similar. ... I really believe that too. In all the different places I've been, everybody does want essentially the same kind of things. The vast majority of people want the same stuff, they just look different when they do it, or they speak differently when they do it," he said.

MacBride has exhibited his work in Toronto, Shanghai and soon in Accra. Currently, the best way to view his photography is online at www.lukemacbride.com or on Instagram @luke_macbride.

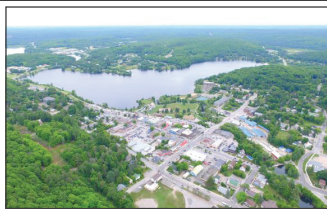


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Dean Michel*
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x28

Wanted!

- Two/three bedroom year-round home on 3+ acres
- We have motivated buyers ready to purchase



Adele Barry
705-457-0306

County Road 21 \$750,000

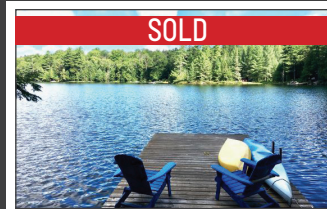
- Commercial property in Haliburton
- Prime corner location, 1.5 acres
- Rental house as an added feature
- Sale includes land, & building



Drew Bishop**
Kristin Bishop**
457-2128 x23

NEW LISTING Little Kennisis Lake \$919,000

- Updated year-round oasis on a stunning lot
- Renovated in 2020 with open concept living
- Walkouts on both levels and 4 bedrooms to accommodate family & friends!



Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

SOLD Motor Restricted Lake

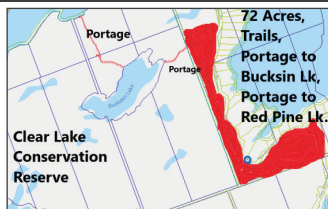
- 900 s.f. 3 season elevated cottage
- 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom
- Natural lot with 50+ stairs to lake



Andy Campbell
854-0292

NEW LISTING Inukshuk Trail \$450,000

- Popular 3 lake chain
- Winterized cottage
- Vintage 1960's



Gloria Carnochan*
754-1932

West Shore Rd Kennisis Lk \$279,000

- 72 ac of forest /trails, also trail 2 Bucksin
- Portage 2 Redpine Lk, for canoe routes
- Snowmobiling, ATVing, biking, horse riding



Mark Denny*
457-0473

Kennisis Lk 4-Season Ctg \$999,900

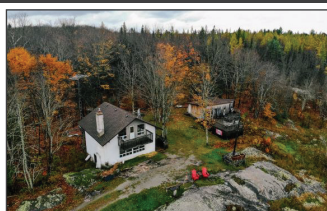
- 100 Ft Wtrfrnt, 0.94 Acr, NW Exp.
- Clean, Sandy Shoreline, Big Lk Views
- Turnkey, New Renos/Upgrades
- Single Car Garage



Tom Eccleston*
286-2138 x 26

Gull River Minden \$399,000

- 2 self contained 3 season cottages
- 235' of mixed shoreline, great swimming
- Just minutes to Minden or Big Gull Lake
- Excellent weekly rental income



Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

Brady Lake \$799,900

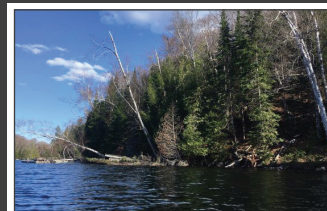
- Main house and guest cottage – both winterized
- Ultimate privacy with million dollar views!
- Over 200 feet of waterfront
- Renovations galore!



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 29

NEW LISTING Kinmount Acreage \$350,000

- Large acreage with the ultimate privacy
- Off-grid location with driveway installed
- 300 acres with trails throughout
- Less than 2 hours from the GTA!



Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 33

Long Lake Lot \$199,900

- Vacant lot with 100 feet of shoreline, approx. 1 acre
- 2-lake chain with Miskwabi Lake for miles of boating
- Year-round private road access



David Lee*
286-2138 x 27

Gull Lake \$529,000

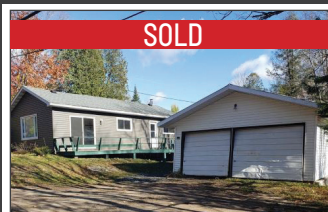
- Large private waterfront lot on a premium lake
- 3.2 Acres, 240' of waterfrontage, level building site
- Hardpacked sand, shallow entry, cleaned and ready to build!



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Commercial Opportunity \$599,000

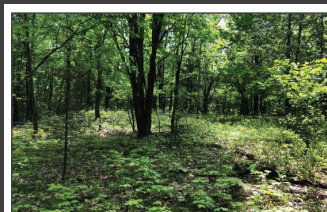
- Two parcels zoning 59 acres, 5 acres zoned commercial highway, 54 zoned disposal industrial
- Modern 3-bedroom, 2 bath home
- Approx. 7000 sq ft of space between 2 shops



Brandon Nimigon*
457-2128 x 27

SOLD Haliburton Village \$300,000

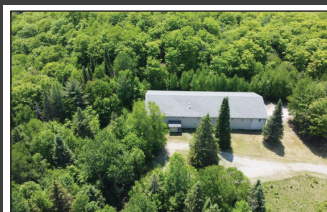
- 2-Bedroom, 1 bath home, COMPLETELY renovated in 2020
- Right in downtown Haliburton, great starter or retirement location



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

North Drive \$142,900

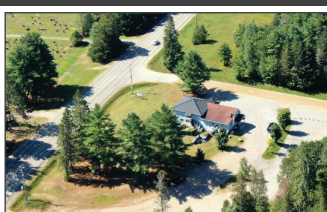
- Location! Location! Location!
- Building Lot backing onto Sir Sam's Ski Resort
- Nicely treed, choice of building sites, excellent privacy



Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 30

Industrial Park Rd \$1,200,000

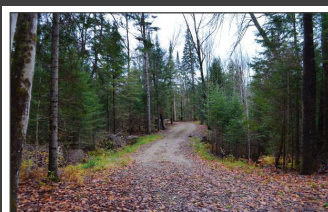
- 10,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
- Sitting on a private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton
- Unlimited possibilities with this fantastic building!



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Gooderham \$380,000

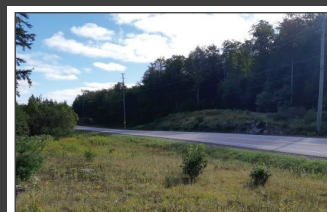
- Huge 3000 sq.ft. building
- With 2-bedroom apartment
- With multiple uses potential



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

Harburn Road \$114,400

- Privacy plus, 4.66 acres
- Driveway in
- Septic approved



Greg Stamp
457-2128 x 28

County Road 21 \$179,000

- Acreage close to Haliburton Village & Pinestone Resort
- Beautifully Treed with driveway already installed.
- Ultimate privacy for residential use!



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 32

Davis Lake Rd \$229,900

- 12 Acres, 500 ft from public access to Davis Lk
- Ideal building site overlooks pond on Crown Land
- Hydro & Bell at lot line



Tom Wilkinson**
286-2138 x 25

Minden Building Lot \$169,900

- Excellent location with maximum exposure
- Commercial zoning with many possible uses
- Investment or your own business



Andrea Wilson**
457-2128 x 25

Haliburton Home \$419,000

- Newer 3-bedroom, 2 bath home with good access to town & across from the rail trail
- Nicely finished, open concept living space and fully finished lower level

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Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: \$47,947 financed at 0% nominal rate (0% APR) equals \$571 monthly for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is \$0, for a total obligation of \$47,947. Freight (\$1,900) and air conditioning charge (\$100, if applicable) included. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, applicable taxes and, except in Quebec, dealer fees not included (all of which may vary by dealer and region). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. *Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. 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Black Friday Sale ends Monday, November 30

Students collecting for those in need

High school students in the Inter-act Club are helping bring joy to those in need in the community, collecting hygiene supplies, toys and clothing this coming weekend.

The students will be in the parking lot of the former Sharpley's Source for Sports in Haliburton on Highland Street across

from McKecks from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28. They will be in the village square across from Upriver Trading Company in Minden from noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29. Donated items need to be packaged due to COVID-19 precautions.

Staff

Crossword brought to you by

Ken Barry
705-754-5280
ken@kenbarry.com



"Out Standing In My Field"



1	2	3					4	5	6	
7							8			9
10			11				12			
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46			47					48		
49								50		
	51							52		

- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Crow species
 - 4. Partner to flow
 - 7. Male offspring
 - 8. Sedate
 - 10. Orange beverage
 - 12. Pair of small hand drums
 - 13. 12th month of Jewish civil year
 - 14. Former Pirates star Jason
 - 16. Computer company
 - 17. Made angry
 - 19. Beverage container
 - 20. Charlize Theron film "___ Flux"
 - 21. Localities
 - 25. Consume
 - 26. Don't know when yet
 - 27. Bed style
 - 29. Make a low, continuous sound
 - 30. Wrath
 - 31. Pollinates flowers
 - 32. Association
 - 39. Prejudice
 - 41. Unhealthy
- CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Rear of (nautical)
 - 2. He minds the net
 - 3. Ring-shaped objects
 - 4. When you hope to get there
 - 5. Young children
 - 6. Beloved hobbit
 - 8. Pigpen
 - 9. Wish harm upon
 - 11. Quick-eyed (Scottish)
 - 14. Scrooge's phrase "___ Humbug"
 - 15. One more
- 18. A ballplayer who only hits
 - 19. Once vital TV part
 - 20. Sixth month of Jewish civil year
 - 22. Advantage
 - 23. Type of tree
 - 24. Luke's mentor ___-Wan
 - 27. Life stories
 - 28. Vase
 - 29. Tiny
 - 31. Package (abbr.)
 - 32. A photog's tool
 - 33. Wood
 - 34. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
 - 35. Pueblo people of New Mexico
 - 36. Wild goats
 - 37. A way to comply
 - 38. Horatio ___, British admiral
 - 39. Actress Leslie
 - 40. Sir ___ Newton
 - 44. Pouch
 - 47. Have already done

Answers on page 18

Good stewardship of bats benefits everyone

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Paul Heaven, lead biologist on the 2018 Bats at Risk Assessment Report, hopes the public will do their part to help bats survive this winter.

With the support of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Heaven spent two years working on the report for the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, learning about the eight bat species in Haliburton County, establishing a baseline of information and how people can help bats, especially given threats such as white-nose syndrome, a disease that disrupts bat life cycles.

"White-nose syndrome is one thing, but we really sort of highlighted the fact that we as landowners can be doing things as well, taking some of the other pressures off. There's not much we can do for white-nose in Haliburton. We certainly can take some of the other pressures off," he said.

These include protecting habitats such as wetlands and places bats use to hibernate such as derelict buildings and caves, and maintaining old growth features in the woods where they roost. The report lists natural roost sites as woodpecker holds, rot holes, cracks, splits and loose bark.

Eight bat species were discovered living in the Highlands, four of them listed as endangered.

Other ways to help bats is to leave them alone, particularly during this time of year when they hibernate.

"When they're in their hibernation site any disturbance to those is really, really detrimental. Plus, the other [thing] is you're bringing in the risk of infecting those hibernation sites," Heaven said.

He warns people not to disturb bats in caves to ensure their winter survival.

Approaching a bat or entering a hibernation site can have dire consequences. "The worst thing that can happen to that hibernation site is you've introduced the white-nose syndrome and then you've brought that into the hibernation site and it would wipe out that entire population. That could be coming in on your boot or something else if you been walking in another cave somewhere," he said.

The bat expends a lot of energy when it is brought out of torpor (the state a bat is in while hibernating). Without a food source during the winter, it cannot replace what it has lost. Heaven said a large cave could house thousands of bats, which can include more than one species.

As far as finding a bat in a building, if there isn't any likelihood of human contact, the recommendation is to leave them alone.

"In many cases, there is no reason to evict bats from the building if there is little chance of human contact. Small bat colonies (i.e. night roosts or small maternity colonies) can usually be left alone with minimal management of the bat guano, as an excellent alternative. In these instances sweeping up or containing the guano, or a well-placed potted plant to catch the guano below the site, will easily address these concerns," the report states.

The report also said if a landowner wants to exclude bats from a building that, under the Endangered Species Act 2007, "endangered and threatened species cannot be harassed, captured or killed unless property owners enter into an agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry."



You can help bats by leaving them alone. The eastern small-footed myotis, left, and the little brown myotis bats are among eight found here in Haliburton County. Photo by Alan Hicks. Ministry of Natural Resources website.

Timing is an important consideration in "effectively and humanely" excluding a bat from a residence.

The Land Trust report provided four periods of time related to the bat's activities, including the "overwintering" from December until the end of March.

It recommends it's "a good time to seal entrances completely IF you are sure that all bats have left to hibernate elsewhere and no bats remain. Taking action to evict or exclude any remaining bats during winter months would likely result in their death as they are highly vulnerable to the cold."

Attacks by bats are rare. The threat of rabies is low relative to other species in Ontario.

In 2016, there were 29 rabid bats reported. One was in Haliburton County. Comparatively, there were 171 rabid raccoons, 84 rabid skunks and one rabid fox in southwestern Ontario, as reported by the MNRF.

The report also includes information on how to properly have a bat removed.

Like any animal, bats are an integral component to the ecosystem, their consumption of nighttime insects is prolific, numbering in the thousands each evening. They help to control pests to prevent damage to forests and agriculture and reduce the use of pesticides.

Heaven is aware people have been seeing more bats in the area recently. Without a study, it's difficult to know about the veracity of such claims. He hopes a follow-up report will be possible if funding could be made available. He said he sees the possibility of healthier bat populations, despite white-nose syndrome, because of the general scientific understanding of viruses.

"With all viruses they slowly start off really, really nasty and then if they kill their host, they're not going to do well," he said. "The first wave is always terrible and then they start to peter out a little bit and back off so they do well. The virus has to do well or it's not going to sustain itself."

Until there is another report, the public is integral to assisting the bats of the area with the best possibilities to thrive.

Read the report at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Best-Management-Practices-for-Bats-January-2018.pdf

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Local nature conservation orgs adapt, mobilize amidst funding shortages

AMANDA DUNCOMBE-LEE
Special to the Echo

This second part of a two-part profile on local non-profit organizations explores how two environmental conservation organizations have fared since the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we work.

When the pandemic lockdown orders hit Ontario last March, Leora Berman, chief operating officer and founder of the Land Between said the organization's biggest challenge was to create a whole new culture of work. "Moving everything online was an enormous effort in terms of man hours," said Berman. "At the same time, I was still trying to get people not to run over turtles and to care about their properties."

The Land Between is a grassroots charitable conservation organization anchored in Haliburton and serving nine counties in a regional belt extending across Ontario. The charity is unique in that it honours the original treaties and incorporates both traditional ecological knowledge and Western science to inform its approach.

"Our primary goal is to look after the land, because the land looks after us," said Berman. "It's a final refuge for many at-risk and common species and is a last stronghold of living ecosystem services in southern Ontario."

The Land Between is not government funded but founded on volunteerism, grants, donations, partnerships, and fee-for-service programs.

Berman said they had to cancel the Turtle Walk this

year and scale down events and galas, while sales went down 80 to 90 per cent and donations decreased.

"Funding sources are extremely limited," said Berman. "We were lucky to get some grants that are significant but if it wasn't for those, we'd be dead in the water."

Operations have continued throughout the pandemic, but the staff team had to move quickly when lockdown orders began. Working from home, they adapted all programming to be done virtually, trained new volunteers online and created virtual reporting systems for turtles. Instead of doing shoreline garden services in person, they asked people to share their screens and completed case studies virtually.

Berman said the shift to virtual programs and services made them more accessible and meaningful to all the communities, providing people with opportunities to connect with nature and encouraging new skills development.

"We also just value the small stuff more," said Berman. "You value the volunteers and every phone call that comes in ... anyone that comes to the door ... it makes me understand the value we're giving to the community."

The agency is now working on infrastructure projects that have enduring impact on the wider community, such as bird tracking towers in Haliburton County and the Kawartha Lakes, and pilot testing new ways to install turtle tunnel passages at low cost using recycled food grade barrels.

Berman cautioned that there is not enough public awareness in Ontario of the impact on Bill 197, introduced last July, which made substantial assessments to the Environmental Assessment Act. "The government has entirely changed the way natural resources are managed, and undermined protections for species at risk and wildlife," said Berman.

"Ontarians just don't know. We've been distracted by COVID and it's affected the public understanding of what is happening and their knowledge base."

Berman said the community can help support the Land Between through direct donations, volunteering to monitor wildlife, booking fee-for-service site visits, and "the best other way to get involved – take a tour of our website to get to know what the Land Between is and learn about your backyard. It's just mind-blowing how enriching and important it is. We are extremely lucky and privileged to live here. It's the meeting of the north and south, with unique species only found here in Ontario, and how they all interact is magnificent."

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust board chair Greg Wickware said as soon as the lockdown began, he knew the challenge ahead would be great in terms of visibility, fundraising, and changes to programming.

The Land Trust is a charitable non-profit organization committed to protecting the natural heritage of Haliburton County, and protects in perpetuity five donated properties totalling 1,300 acres of ecologically significant lands.

While the Land Trust was successful in securing four grants in 2019, including one from the Haliburton County Development Corporation, they rely on fundraising, events and donations. Community visibility, a key



A Canadian Conservation Corps volunteer helps post directional signage at the new HHLT Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. / Submitted

factor in fundraising, has been a challenge since March.

The team made the decision to close their Dahl Forest trails for two months, move their discovery days and guided tours online and cancel their annual Rock Our World fundraising event. Though the online auction went ahead, and a number of tickets were still purchased, there was a revenue shortfall.

"Out of the stress came some positive things," said Wickware. "We learned how to do online fundraising, new technology, and we've broadened our reach. With the online auction, it wasn't just people from Haliburton who bid on some of our items but other people from [other parts of] Ontario and Canada ... it's really opened our eyes to be able to reach out in different ways in the community and country."

The opening to their newest property, the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, was delayed and restricted to 25 people, but over 150 people came to visit the property the week after the opening. "They said they are just so thankful to have a place like Barnum Creek that they can come to in these times, and to be able to get out on these trails and be in nature and get away from things," said Wickware.

Operations at the Land Trust are primarily volunteer based, with the organization maintaining one part-time administrative employee. "The more volunteers we have, the better visibility we have, and the more community support we get," said Wickware.

The public can also support the Land Trust through direct donations, including the donation boxes at the trailheads. "We have over 1,300 acres of properties and almost two-thirds of those acres are open to the public to maintain and keep safe for people to use," said Wickware. "We like to think when people are out there [on the trails] that they understand it costs a lot of money and time – and to please not forget about us."

Municipality of Dysart et al

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

2021 BUDGET PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

Take notice that there will be a **Special Meeting** of Council on **Friday, December 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss projects and priorities for the 2021 Budget. The Municipality has also set the following dates (if required) to review the 2021 Budget:

January 8, 2021 and February 12, 2021

These meetings will be hosted virtually as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can view the proceedings by visiting the Dysart YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVWZxsvf8VCyDf04uwjCJ6g>

Dated this 20th day of November, 2020.

Mallory Bishop, Clerk
mbishop@dysartet.al.ca

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from page 7

Dear Grocery Store Worker,
Thank you for taking your time to work and give our community groceries and gas. You have helped my family through the pandemic by giving food and water and cleaning products. Our community truly appreciates your help. We thank you for giving us food and water to have during the pandemic.

Sincerely,
Rilynn Bain McFadden

Dear Front Line Workers,
Thank you front line workers for helping our community at these difficult times. You guys help a lot by bringing food to our local grocery store, by helping your sick patients at the hospital, and cooking at our restaurants. You do a lot for our town. Thank you for all of your hard work!

Sincerely,
Owen Sisson

Dear Front Line Workers,
I'm writing to you today to thank you for everything you've done during the pandemic. I just want you to know everything you do doesn't go unnoticed. A lot, and I mean a lot of people notice the things you do and the things you do to help. I just want all the firefighters, police and everybody else who's been helping to thank you so much for what you've done. It means a lot in this country and we assure you your work isn't going unnoticed. I also thank all the doctors and nurses because they've done so much for help stopping COVID-19.

Sincerely,
Chase Winder

Dear Mr. or Mrs. Front Line Worker,
Your hard and dangerous job has not gone unnoticed. We here at JDH thank you for your bravery in this time of trouble. Thank you for still working for us in this horrible pandemic. Without people like you we would be home-bound in quarantine since March and it is so much better now so thank you so much for your hard work

Sincerely,
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Thanks all our members and non-members who volunteered to help us in our recent Poppy Campaign. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we had no idea how things would play out. However, due to the huge generosity of you, the amazing people of Haliburton, the net result so far is over \$2,400.00 more than last year. Our current balance is \$26,369.66. Last year Branch 129 donated \$15,000.00 to organizations supporting our Veterans.

This is our 5th and last Poppy Campaign as Bev & I are moving out of the county, however, we will never forget you so:

LET US NEVER FORGET THEM

*Thank you
Bev & Bruce Martin*





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Love
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Dave & Sue



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Bruce Armstrong

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Friday morning, November 6, 2020 in his 100th year. Beloved husband of the late Anna Kane (1992) & Hazel "Velma" Richardson (2008). Beloved companion of Jacqueline Metcalf. Loving father of Derek Armstrong and Nancy Walker. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Jake (Breana), Jesse, Liam and by his great grandchildren Sloan and Silas. Predeceased by his son Neil (1982) and by his brother Philip and his sister Emily.

Private Graveside Service & Memorial Service

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a Private Memorial Service will take place at the HALIBURTON UNITED CHURCH, on Friday morning, November 27, 2020 at 11 o'clock. For those who wish to attend virtually, you may do so by clicking the following link https://www.youtube.com/user/hwellesmorgan/featured?view_as=public on the day of Service. Please be sure to log-in up to 5 minutes prior to the start of the service. Interment Minesing Union Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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Sarginson, William John "Jack"

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Jack Sarginson, 78 years, who died peacefully at home on Thursday, November 19th, 2020 with his loving wife by his side.

He fought a courageous battle with cancer for the past 6 years. Son of the late Bill and Luebelle Sarginson of Bancroft Ontario. Brother to Norma-Jean Scheffee (nee Sarginson), Brother-in-law of Grant Scheffee, Uncle to Glenn Scheffee, all predeceased of Haliburton Ontario. He will be sadly missed by his loving wife Winnie, his sons Bill, Kevin, Bruce, Keith (predeceased), his Grandsons Keith, Carter, Brandon, and grand-daughter Amy, his nephews Bill, Mike, and Tony Scheffee. He will also be missed by his furry friend Ms. Chevy. Dad was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish with his friends, sons, and grandkids, in the great French River area. He enjoyed retirement from a career in the MNR of 33 years, he then formed his own consulting company JSW Co. buying and selling hardwood/veneer logs throughout Ontario, Quebec, and Wisconsin areas. He had made many lasting friendships throughout his career, and in the French River area. He enjoyed his Grandchildren, following Keith and Carter from learning to skate to playing hockey for the Coniston Flames. Jack was proud to attend Brandon's graduation at Lakehead University. He loved to hear his granddaughter's voice, attended her high school musical concert where she was lead singer, and was so happy she won Peterborough Idol. Dad and Mom enjoyed their home away from home for 28yrs at Watson's camp on Manitoulin Island. They shared many campfires with their friends at the camp and enjoyed great fishing in the area.

A small private ceremony will be held for Dad at the Espanola Cemetery at a future date. We would like to thank all the nurses under Dr. Cano of the Northeast Cancer Center who took great care of Jack, and whom he had liked to tease. Also, a big thank-you to the nurses at Bayshore Homecare, who took good care of Dad while he was at home. Our family is asking for donations to be made in Jack's name to the Northern Cancer Foundation: www.ncfsudbury.com/donations/miles-against-cancer/ or, to the charity of your choice. Arrangements have been entrusted to Ranger's Cremation and Burial Services Ltd. Online condolences can be posted at www.RangersSudbury.com.

Gone but not forgotten, to his happy hunting and fishing grounds.

Waymouth, Dennis Arthur

With sadness we announce the passing of Dennis Arthur Waymouth at his home on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at the age of 83.

Beloved husband of Doris Waymouth and loved father of Theodore (Ted) Waymouth of Huntsville. Dennis was the Grandfather of Grant, Braedi and Neal and the very special Great-grandfather of Keira. He is survived by his niece Alana of Haliburton. Dennis will be greatly missed by his nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place and Interment will take place at South Wilberforce Cemetery at a later date. As expressions of sympathy, donations to The Salvation Army would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. (Cards available at the funeral home (613) 338-3259 or e-mail condolences to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com).



DR. DONALD ALAN SMITH

August 29, 1930 – November 13, 2020

Dad died peacefully at his family home near Stittsville, Ontario, at age 90. He was the son of Alan and Daphne Smith of Toronto. Predeceased by his wife Lorraine (2007) and granddaughter Gillian (2017) and his beloved canine companion, Goldie (2020), he is survived by his five children (Peter, Carol, Suzanne, Janet, Paul), and their families, including ten grandchildren as well as his younger sister (Ann Daw) and her family.



Dad had a lifelong relationship with nature and conservation. In his youth he searched for owl nests, brought home baby raccoons, and lied about his age so he could join the Toronto Intermediate Naturalists with likeminded chums. His habit of keeping detailed notes and taking photographs began early, and he was never without his pen and notepad, binoculars or cameras through the years.

As a young man, Dad particularly enjoyed field work at the Algonquin Wildlife Research Station in Ontario (1948), working on Southampton Island in the Arctic, and working as BC's first Park Interpretation Specialist at E.C. Manning Park (1957).

Dad received numerous academic awards and scholarships through the years. He completed three advanced degrees in Zoology at the University of Toronto, including his PhD in 1957. That Fall he joined the faculty of Carleton University in Ottawa where he was a beloved professor in the Biology department as well as the Curator of the Museum of Zoology until his retirement in 1995. His main area of expertise was small mammals. Sabbatical trips to teach and conduct research included living and working in East Africa, Venezuela, Trinidad and Australia.

Through his life, Dad's passion and action involved the natural world and preserving natural areas. In 1962 he worked to save the Mer Bleue Wetland in Ottawa: almost 50 years later he was presented with a conservation award for this success. More recently, 72 acres of land now known as the Smith Forest was gifted to the Haliburton Land Trust for future generations to enjoy. He was a member of the Haliburton and Kawartha Field Naturalists clubs and supported numerous conservation causes. He worked on the Breeding Bird Atlas of Ontario and did field work into his 80's on plant identification for an upcoming publication. Dad loved nothing better than teaching others about nature, and he gave many talks to schools, scout groups and naturalist clubs, always with specimens and stories, and he led countless hikes and bird walks.

Dad's personal interests included natural history, birding, photography, travel, theatre, books (his nature and field guide collection is vast), watching CFL football and NHL Senators games, shopping at the Farmer's Market, eating hot and sour soup, and drinking a chilled rum and coke.

Dad was kind, wise, funny, thoughtful, precise, and dedicated to the people and things he loved. His legacy will live on in the lessons and teachings about nature he so freely shared with all lucky enough to have known him. In his final weeks, he was able to enjoy looking out at his bird feeders and forest property. He was taken to visit the beloved Haliburton cottage in his last months. Dad kept up with his family by phone, and was engaged and telling stories to the end.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Haliburton Land Trust www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca (PO Box 1478 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0), Nature Canada www.naturecanada.ca (Suite 300, 240 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X4) or Birds Canada www.birdscanada.org. Immediate cremation will be followed by a celebration of life in Haliburton at a later date. Condolences may be left at <https://firstmemorialfairview.com/donald-a-smith/>

INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

TEST SCORES IMPROVE:
Grade 3, 6 results on provincial testing
please Director of Education

ROTARY'S CHANGING FACE:
President Lynda Shadbolt reflects new
reality of service clubs

OPEN FOR EMERGENCIES
New Minden health care facility accepts
first patients on Tuesday

THE ECHO

HALIBURTON

www.haliburtonecho.on.ca

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ERIK MARTENSSON/ECHO

Remembering the Montreal massacre:

Braving the frigid temperatures and falling snow about 40 women and men gathered at the traffic lights in Haliburton last Wednesday for a candlelight vigil marking the anniversary of the 1989 massacre of 14 women at Montreal's L'École Polytechnique.

Property values up six percent on average across the county

ERIK MARTENSSON

Staff Reporter

Overall property values in the Highlands have increased by an average six per cent according to the Province's market value assessment program. Property owners in Haliburton County have recently begun to receive their assessment notices with property values updated to 1999 figures. The new assessments are designed to be an accurate prediction of what the selling price of the property would have been in the summer of 1999.

Waterfront property assessments show biggest jump, up by an average of 11 percent

Values in Dysart et al have climbed just over six per cent, in Stanhope they've soared twelve per cent, Highlands East properties are up about one per cent and the Minden area shows a rise of three per cent.

Dale Lingard, Acting Assessment Commissioner with the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation regional office notes while there has been a substantial rise in the value of waterfront properties of approximately eleven per cent county-wide, residential and rural properties without any waterfront have generally retained the same value.

In Dysart waterfront property is up about 12 per cent, in Stanhope it's swelled by 15 per cent, Highlands East shows an increase of 1 per cent and the Minden Area has risen about 3 per cent.

Lingard says the system used to calcu-

See **Tax burdens** page 4

Ice fishing will return to Drag Lake in 2002 after 15 years of closure

STEVE GALEA

Special to The Echo

After 15 years of absence, ice anglers will once again be part of Drag Lake's rugged winterscape, starting in 2002.

The 10,000 hectare lake was the subject of a 4-hour presentation and lively discussion at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association Fish Hatchery on Saturday, December 9th. Concerned anglers, Drag Lake property owners, consultants, and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) staff came to discuss the future of one of the county's largest lakes. By the end, all participants supported the reopening the winter season that had been closed since 1987. Most also agreed on details regulating that season.

The meeting was facilitated by Dana Kinsman, MNR biologist and Chairperson of the Fisheries Management and

Planning Subcommittee, and attended by representatives the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association as well as the Drag Lake Property Owners Association.

Consultant Ruth Grant, of RE Grant and Associates, began by sharing highlights of a background report presented last September to a meeting addressing this issue. The information was gathered from 14 years of open water assessment data and creel and gill net surveys. Significant among the findings was the discovery that the lengthy ice-fishing closure had negligible effect on Drag Lake's resident lake trout population. Increased growth rate, a hoped-for effect of the closure, did not occur. However, angling effort declined significantly during the remaining open water season.

Grant noted that though the big lake has typical lake trout habitat, clean spawning shoals, and good water quality, it has lower than average productivity. The assembly was told that

See **Ice fishing** page 4

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The Haliburton Real Estate Team

HALIBURTON LAKE \$735,000



It's the perfect retreat! Traditional 2-bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Large lakefront deck. Stone, wood burning fireplace. Single dry boathouse with wraparound deck. 1 bunkie providing enough space for the whole family. This complete package sleeps 10 people comfortably. This property checks off all the boxes.

RIVERSIDE DRIVE \$499,000



A great family home, in a wonderful neighbourhood. This home is clean, tastefully decorated and features 3+1 bdrm's, 3 baths. Beautiful stone fireplace with wood stove insert, updated kitchen and appliances, and breakfast nook. Fantastic large yard for kids to play. Convenience of in town living, but your surroundings feel much more private and allow you to enjoy nature. New septic being installed.

MARCUS BEACH \$75,000



Fully furnished 3 bdrm, 2 bath fractional ownership offers the experience of stress free "lake life" 5 weeks/yr. Bright, open concept living. Maintenance fee includes the maintenance of the grounds & cottage, taxes, cottage cleaning, electricity and so much more. Included on the property for your use; playground, volleyball, tennis court, fire pits, trails and gear for water activities. 2021 weeks and additional information available.

WILLIAMS LANDING \$59,900



Fractional ownership is stress free! Own this fully furnished 3-bdrm, 2 bath cottage with 9 others. Bright open concept living, pine flooring and propane fireplace. Williams Landing offers 4 shared docks, sand beaches, stunning hiking trails and more. Annual maintenance fee includes everything from cottage and yard maintenance, electricity, cottage cleaning, internet, phone and more. Enjoy Kashagawigamog Lake 5 weeks of the year.

COMMERCIAL - THE LAKE VIEW MOTEL \$1,950,000



One of Haliburton's most popular Motels. The Lakeview Motel offers 14 motel rms and personal living quarters. Immaculate grounds and very well maintained buildings. Turnkey operation. Lovely inground pool, 4 hot tubs, horseshoe pit, dining room, BBQ's and much more offered to guests. Personal living quarters with 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 2 living rms and kitchen/dining area. Huge potential to expand on this 3.78-acre parcel.



VACANT LOTS



Harburn Road
\$179,000 53AC



30th Line
\$69,900 4.99AC



Salerno Lake Road
\$53,900 1.05AC



South Drive
\$32,900 2.21AC